19th March 1948]

Financial position of District Boards and Municipal Councils.

* 47 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the examination of the finances of the municipalities and local bodies has disclosed that some of them cannot afford to pay the revised rates of salaries and give retrospective effect to revised scales from January 1947;

(*b*) what those municipalities and local bodies are; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to make up the deficit on this account by suitable grants?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(*a*) & (*b*) The Hon. Member presumably refers to the financial position of the district boards and municipal councils to introduce the revised scales of pay sanctioned for teachers in schools under their control. The financial position of almost all the district boards and municipal councils is not sound.

"(*c*) The Government do not however propose to make up the full deficit on this account by grants. However, to put them in funds, they have sanctioned the enhancement of the rate of education tax and have given advances to enable the district boards and municipal councils to introduce the revised scales of pay for teachers in elementary schools. They have also, with a view to enable local bodies to meet the extra cost involved in the adoption of the revised scales of pay for the staff in secondary schools sanctioned the payment of teaching grants on the basis of half the net cost of maintenance of the schools in lieu of the fixed lump sum subsidies paid hitherto. This has afforded the necessary financial relief and the revised scales of pay have been adopted by all local bodies."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"In view of the answer that the financial position of almost all the district boards and municipal councils is not sound, will the Hon. Minister, instead of giving them advances to make up the deficit, make it a grant? The advances will never be recoverable."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"It is open to the Government to do whatever in future. But at present they have granted only advances."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Supply of rice and millets in rationed areas.

6 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of people to whom rice was supplied in each of the statutory rationed areas of the various districts of this Province as on the 1st December 1947; and the quantity so supplied for each area;

(*b*) the number of people to whom rice was supplied in the non-statutory rationed areas of the various districts on the aforesaid date; and the quantity so supplied;